

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1-19c are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper.

Enclosures: Replacement Figures 1-19c

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26-30, 32, 35-37, 45, 49, and 50 stand rejected; claims 3, 6-14, 19, 20, 23-25, 38-44, and 51-57 stand withdrawn; and claims 17, 31, 33, 34 and 46-48 stand objected. By way of this paper, claim 45 has been amended; and new claims 58-62 have been added herein.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 45 stands objected to for containing minor informalities. By way of this paper, Claim 45 has been amended to correct these minor informalities. Specifically, “an” has been changed to --a-- in line 2 and “plate one” has been changed to --one plate-- in line 6. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 45.

Formal Drawings

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 21, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 35-37, 45, 49, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Moon et al. ('693) reference.

Claim 1 includes the feature of a body, portions of the body defining a fluid chamber and a nozzle orifice, the nozzle orifice being in fluid communication with the fluid chamber. Claim 1 also includes the feature of a plate removably positioned over the body, the plate having at least one orifice, the at least one orifice being in fluid communication with the nozzle orifice of the body.

The Moon et al. ('693) reference discloses a nozzle plate 103a attached to walls 104 that are attached to substrate 100a (FIG. 5, paragraph 0041; see also FIG. 3, paragraph 0039 describing nozzle plate 103 and substrate 100). It appears that nozzle plate 103a is permanently attached to walls 104 because the Moon et al. ('693) reference does not disclose that nozzle plate 103a is removable. In fact, the Moon et al. ('693) reference is completely silent on this issue.

As such, for purposes of this argument it may be said that nozzle plate 103a, walls 104, and substrate 100a form a structure that is similar to the body feature of claim 1 described above. However, it can not be said that the Moon et al. ('693) discloses a plate removably positioned over the body as described in claim 1. In fact, this plate feature of Applicants' invention would be removably positioned over the structure formed by nozzle plate 103a, walls 104, and substrate 100a disclosed by the Moon et al. ('693) reference in order to solve one or more of the problems associated with permanently attached or bonded nozzle plate structures (with some of these problems being described in the background section of Applicants' invention). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 15, 21, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, and 35-37 depend from claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 45 includes the feature of a removable plate having a first position over the body and a second position removed from the body, the plate having at least one plate orifice.

As described above with reference to claim 1, the Moon et al. ('693) reference discloses a nozzle plate 103a that is permanently attached to walls 104 of substrate 100a (FIG. 5, paragraph 0041; see also FIG. 3, paragraph 0039 describing nozzle plate 103 and substrate 100). As such, it can not be said that the Moon et al. ('693) discloses a removable plate having a first position over the body and a second position removed from the body, the plate having at least one plate orifice. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 45 is respectfully requested.

Claims 49 and 50 depend from claim 45 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 45.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moon et al. ('693) reference in view of the Plesinger ('641) reference.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moon et al. ('693) reference in view of the Hirano et al. ('130) reference.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moon et al. ('693) reference in view of the Matta et al. ('067) reference.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moon et al. ('693) reference in view of the Min et al. ('299) reference.

Claims 5, 16, 18, 22, and 28 depend from claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 5, 16, 18, 22, and 28 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17, 31, 33, 34, and 46-48 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New Claims 58 and 59 have been added herein. Independent claim 58 includes the subject matter of claim 33, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 59, depending from claim 58, includes the subject matter of claim 34, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Applicants request allowance of new claims 58 and 59.

New Claims 60-62 have been added herein. Independent claim 60 includes the subject matter of claim 46, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claims 61 and 62, depending from claim 60, include the subject matter of claims 47 and 48, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Applicants request allowance of new claims 60-62.

Election/Restriction

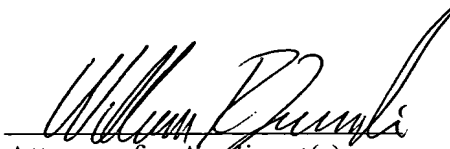
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 45 remain generic. Accordingly, if claims 1 and 45 are determined to be present in allowable form, Applicants request consideration of claims 3, 6-14, 19, 20, 23-25, and 51-57 which read on additional species and depend from claim 1 or claim 45.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.